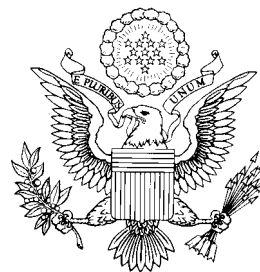


ARTICLE ALERT

Nov & Dec 2008



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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. Their Own Worst Enemy

Fallows, James

Atlantic Monthly, vol. 302, no. 4, November 2008, pp. 72-77

After spending two years in China, Fallows wonders "how can official China possibly do such a clumsy and self-defeating job of presenting itself to the world? China, like any big, complex country, is a mixture of goods and bads. But I have rarely seen a governing and 'communications' structure as consistent in hiding the good sides and highlighting the bad." China's press policy, he says, reflects the view that scrutiny from the Western press is not really necessary and the ignorance and insularity among China's leadership about the hows and whys of foreign opinion and its importance.

2. America's Hard Sell

Jentleson, Bruce; Weber, Steven

Foreign Policy, vol. 169, November-December 2008, pp. 43-49

Jentleson and Weber, professors of political science at Duke University and the University of California at Berkeley respectively, argue that the public diplomacy strategies of the last century won't work as well in the 21st century. The "War of Ideas" metaphor is outdated and should be replaced with the "Marketplace of Ideas" where the U.S. competes for market share against other ideologies, some from nonstate sources. The authors contend that ideology is the most important component of national powers, technology massively multiplies soft power, and "domestic values" and "international values" must be consistent. The authors write that the U.S. will have to compete with countries, global corporations, religious movements, Internet communities -- each with strengths and shortcomings -- on a level playing field.

3. The New Liberalism

Packer, George

New Yorker, vol. 84, no. 37, November 17, 2008

After looking back at presidential history, interviewing President-elect Obama's advisors, and reviewing Obama's words from his books and campaign speeches, Packer tries to describe how Obama might lead the country. Packer compares this moment to the election of President Roosevelt in 1932 but believes in Obama's idea of "deliberative democracy", in which adults listen to one another -- "who attempt to persuade one another by means of argument and evidence, and who remain open to the possibility that they could be wrong." Obama reads widely from both the "right-wing and left-wing book clubs" but Packer states that Obama's liberalism is more procedural than substantive -- his most fervent belief is in rules and standards of serious debate. Packer believes that Obama will favor activist government in questions of social welfare such as jobs, income, health care and energy but will attempt to accommodate differences on social and legal issues such as guns, abortion, the death penalty, same-sex marriage, the courts and the constitution

4. State of Blogging

Jackson, Nancy Mann

State Legislatures, Vol. 34, No. 5, May 2008, pp. 30-32

Mann discusses state legislators' use of blogs as a method of communication for their constituents. While some representatives get a lot of coverage in traditional media, others who are closer to metropolitan centers have a more difficult time getting exposure. Blogs provide an easy and cheap means of publicity and a new way for constituents to meet their elected officials. Blogs are also helping to create transparency in government; state legislators enjoy the opportunity to engage directly with constituents and let them know what is going on in the state capitol as it is happening. Research has shown that those who are involved in the online community are often civically engaged offline. While this is a relatively new technology, Dr. David Wyld, professor of management at Southeastern Louisiana University and author of "The Blogging Revolution: Government in the Age of Web 2.0," says that this will be a feature constituents will come to expect from their elected officials in five to ten years. First Amendment activists are concerned, however, about the comments feature on these blogs. Some are worried that filtering inappropriate comments may infringe upon a public forum (state legislators' blogs are often hosted on government Web sites).

5. The American Public's View of Congress

Hibbing, John R.; Larimer, Christopher W.

The Forum, vol. 6, no. 3, July 2008

Hibbing, with the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, and Larimer, at the University of Northern Iowa, assert that Congress has long been unpopular with the American public, with approval numbers above fifty percent serving as the exception rather than the norm. In this essay they argue that such disapproval stems not from calculated reaction to policy outcomes or partisan attachments. Rather, people tend to disapprove of Congress for exactly the thing it was designed to be: an open and deliberative lawmaking body. The more Congress does its job, the more the public tends to disapprove.

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

6. Anatomy of a Meltdown

Cassidy, John

New Yorker, December 1, 2008

The author chronicles the U.S. financial history of the last two years and the role of Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank. In hindsight, it still isn't easy to judge whether Bernanke, described by fellow economists as "the smartest guy in the room," should have done things differently or if he did it right. Cassidy says that Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Bernanke employed the "finger-in-the-dike" strategy, attempting to deep the financial sector operating so that it could repair itself. As more financial institutions failed and the government put more resources into bailing out the financial sector, the Federal Reserve Board has become engaged in the boldest exercise of its authority since its inception in 1913. Bernanke believes that

the Fed's bold action has avoided a disaster. Cassidy describes the views of the Fed's proponents and critics and the reasoning behind each of the various financial bailouts.

7. How to Save Capitalism? Plan

Galbraith, James K.

Harper's Magazine, November 2008

Galbraith writes that the challenge is not to save capitalism, but but “how to save the unique and successful mixed economy built in the United States over the eighty-five years since the New Deal.” The U.S. economic system has a large public sector, which has traditionally been concerned with a range of projects for the common good. However, Galbraith argues that these functions are in peril, after thirty years of attack by “predators posing as conservatives and mouthing the rhetoric of ‘free markets’ ... their goal is to use the government to build monopolies, to control resources, to block regulation, to crush unions, to divert as much as possible from taxpayers into private pockets.” He notes that government planning has been a “dirty word” in the U.S. for decades, the hard-line right believing that it “destroyed freedom.” Galbraith counters that, if there is no planning, the only people in charge are lobbyists for the corporate world. He believes that the U.S. government needs a capacity to think and plan that is independent of Congress or the lobbying process, that will convey a sense of national purpose, and at present, such a plan needs to center around energy and climate change. This article is part of a series in the November issue of Harper’s, HOW TO SAVE CAPITALISM: FUNDAMENTAL FIXES FOR A COLLAPSING SYSTEM.

8. How Economics Can Defeat Corruption

Fisman, Raymond; Miguel, Edward

Foreign Policy, no. 168, September/October 2008, pp. 66-74

The authors, professors at Columbia Business School and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively, note that we have very little idea about how corruption works or how pervasive it is. Corruption undermines the rule of law, distorts trade, and confers economic advantages on a privileged few. It prevents aid money from reaching disaster victims, topples buildings thanks to shoddy construction, and strangles business with the constant burden of bribes and payoffs. The hidden underworld of corruption often reveals itself in unexpected ways and in situations that allow people not only to measure actual corruption but to test different methods of preventing it. They write that governments should become more experimental, in how they deal with their corruption problems, and must think seriously about evaluating what does and does not work in the real world. At some point, economic theories must be tested in the chaos of real economies to see which anticorruption approaches work, whether it is some combination of higher salaries, government transparency, or stricter punishments. If policymakers work to end corruption systematically, they may just find that economics, armed with a little creativity, can make corruption a little less common.

9. The Year in Trade 2007

U.S. International Trade Commission. Web posted August 6

The report provides a practical review of U.S. international trade laws and actions in 2007, a summary of the operation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and an overview of U.S. free trade agreements and negotiations and of U.S. bilateral trade relations with major trading partners. It also includes complete listings of antidumping, countervailing duty, safeguard, intellectual property rights infringement, and section 301 cases undertaken by the U.S. government in 2007.

10. The 19th U.S. – CHINA Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT): Fact Sheet U.S. Trade Representative. Web posted September 19

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab, together with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, convened the 19th U.S. – China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT). The highlights of the topics discussed, include agreements in intellectual property rights, healthcare, agriculture, procurement and services.

11. Food Safety and Imports: an Analysis of FDA Food-related Import Refusal Reports Jean C. Buzby et al. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Web posted September 11

The study examines U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data on refusals of food offered for importation into the United States from 1998 to 2004. The study found that import refusals highlight food safety problems that appear to recur in trade and where the FDA has focused its import alerts, examinations, and other monitoring efforts. The data show some food industries and types of violations may be consistent sources of problems both over time and in comparison with previous studies of more limited data. The three food industry groups with the most violations were vegetables (20.6 percent of total violations), fishery and seafood (20.1 percent), and fruits (11.7 percent).

12. How Changes in the Value of the Chinese Currency Affect U.S. Imports Congressional Budget Office. July 2008

Rapid growth in imports of merchandise from the People's Republic of China over the past decade has posed a challenge for competing U.S. manufacturers. Some observers believe that the Chinese government has contributed to growth in U.S. imports by maintaining an undervalued currency, and there have been calls for China to revalue its currency, the renminbi, that is, to raise its value (or allow it to rise) relative to the dollar as a way to level the playing field for U.S. manufacturers.

13. China's Stimulus Lesson for America Albert Keidel CEIP Web Commentary, November 10, 2008

China's newly announced \$586 billion stimulus package is almost certainly overkill for the country's needs—China's domestic demand expansion this year is too strong to warrant spending this much money any time soon. But it offers a much-needed lesson to the U.S. government about how large an effective stimulus package might have to be. China's stimulus also arrives just in time to set a powerful example before this weekend's G20 meeting, where national leaders will

discuss solutions to the looming global economic slump. China's package amounts to 14 percent of its likely 2008 GDP. For the United States, this share of GDP translates into a \$2 trillion program. The comparison shows how small the amounts under consideration in the Congress really are when compared to what it takes to counter a potentially very dangerous recession. After all, FDR failed to pull America out of the Depression in the 1930s because he and his Congresses worried about the budget. It took deficit spending worth 80 percent of GDP over five years during World War II to do the job.

14. China's Troubled Food and Drug Trade

Toni Johnson

CFR Backgrounder, October 17, 2008

From pet food and toothpaste to dialysis drugs and milk products, the Chinese government finds itself under growing scrutiny both domestically and internationally for how it regulates food and other consumer products. Following scandals involving both pet food and dairy products, some accused Chinese producers of deliberately adding the chemical melamine to products to thwart quality testing methods aimed at detecting protein levels in foods. The Chinese government defends its food safety record but has also made moves to improve regulatory oversight. On preventing tainted food from entering international markets, some experts note that Japan and Hong Kong do more than the United States does to inspect food imports from China. Other experts say multinational firms involved in exporting products from China must do more to ensure that the products they are moving are safe.

15. How Much of Chinese Exports is Really Made in China? : Assessing Domestic Value-added When Processing Trade is Pervasive

Robert Koopman et al.

National Bureau of Economic Research. June 2008

As China's export juggernaut employs many imported inputs, there are many policy questions for which it is crucial to know the extent of domestic and foreign value added in its exports. According to the report, the share of foreign content in China's exports is at about 50%. There are also variations across sectors and firm ownership. Those sectors that are likely labeled as relatively sophisticated such as electronic devices have particularly high foreign content (about 80%). Foreign-invested firms also tend to have higher foreign content in their exports than do domestic firms.

国际安全 International Security

16. The Defense Inheritance: Challenges and Choices for the Next Pentagon Team

Flournoy, Michele; Brimley, Shawn

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 59-76

The authors, both with the Center for a New American Security, note that when Barack Obama is inaugurated in January, he will face "the most daunting defense inheritance in generations" — wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the search for bin Laden; the increasing power of China, Russia,

India, and Pakistan; changes in the nature of war, as shown by the Israeli experience in Lebanon; cyberspace warfare; instability on the world's oceans; and broader systemic problems such as climate change and increased competition for resources, including food. This dire situation is compounded by American budgetary woes made worse by the economic crisis, the spiraling costs of entitlements, and the exploding costs of the two wars. The Pentagon will be forced to make tough choices regarding personnel and weapons programs. The authors note that the Defense Department "cannot afford to continue hemorrhaging taxpayer dollars because of its broken acquisition system." Other problems facing the new administration include countering weapons of mass destruction, reducing the U.S. nuclear posture, reexamining the U.S. global military posture, sustaining the all-volunteer force, fixing dysfunctional management processes, and improving interagency cooperation.

**17. A Foreign Affairs Budget for the Future: Fixing the Crisis in Diplomatic Readiness
American Academy of Diplomacy and the Henry L. Stimson Center, October 2008, 75 pp**

This report, a collaborative effort of 48 retired ambassadors and other foreign affairs experts, concludes that the U.S. faces critical foreign challenges with inadequate staff and resources as well as "authority shortfalls" relating to some economic and security assistance programs. The study reviews four categories of activity: core diplomacy, public diplomacy, economic assistance, and reconstruction/stabilization. It devotes 13 pages to public diplomacy activities, which it limits narrowly to exchanges, international information programs, and field operations carried out by the Department of State. For these activities, the report recommends increasing U.S. direct-hire staff by 487, locally employed staff by 369, and overall staff and program funding increases totaling \$610.4 million by Fiscal Year 2014. In an Appendix, the report devotes a page to international broadcasting and two pages to a skeptical look at public diplomacy activities of the Department of Defense.

**18. China Through Arab Eyes: American Influence in the Middle East
Zambelis, Chris; Gentry, Brandon
Parameters, vol. 38, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 60-72**

Gentry and Zambelis, both associates with the political and security risk analysis firm Helios Global, Inc., focus on the influence of the U.S. in the Middle East. This influence is currently being challenged by China, as Beijing skillfully exploits Arab dissatisfaction with American policies. Sino-Arab relations are poised to develop and expand across social, political, economic, and cultural sectors. Washington cannot afford to ignore the unavoidable truth of the Arab world's growing interest in China's potential.

**19. Experiencing America: Public Diplomacy at Its Best
Ambassador Nancy G Brinker, Christopher R Hill and Said T Jawad
Heritage Lecture, November 24, 2008**

The Department of State's Office of Protocol created a new outreach division to give as many of the 180 foreign ambassadors in Washington as possible an opportunity to experience more of America, beyond traditional diplomatic circles. In just 10 months, the Office of Protocol organized some 70 outreach events to expose the diplomats to American communities, high-tech

businesses, advanced medical institutions, and even local, state, and federal government entities like NASA. The diplomatic community had expressed a desire to get to know America better: not just the large cities, but each region and even small-town America. Who better to communicate America's values and shared interests overseas than the foreign ambassadors and their families who live and work among us and who know us best?

20. A New Era of International Cooperation for a Changed World: 2009, 2010, and Beyond The Brookings Institution

The 21st century will be defined by security threats unconstrained by borders—from climate change, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism to conflict, poverty, disease, and economic instability. The greatest test of global leadership will be building partnerships and institutions for cooperation that can meet the challenge. Although all states have a stake in solutions, responsibility for a peaceful and prosperous world will fall disproportionately to the traditional and rising powers. The U.S. Presidential election provides a moment of opportunity to renew American leadership, galvanize action against major threats, and refashion key institutions to reflect the need for partnership and legitimacy. To build a cooperative international order based on responsible sovereignty, global leaders must act across four different tracks.

21. Voices of America: U.S. Public Diplomacy for the 21st Century The Brookings Institution

This report presents concrete steps to strengthen America's efforts to engage, persuade, and attract the support of foreign publics. As part of a comprehensive plan to enhance our government's public diplomacy, it urges the creation of a nimble and entrepreneurial new non-profit organization, the USA-World Trust, to complement and support U.S. government efforts. At this moment in history, America has the opportunity to build the capabilities it needs now and for the future. This report recommends practical steps to achieve that goal. These recommendations will not resolve America's public diplomacy challenges once and for all. However, they represent a first and hopefully important step towards building stronger relations with foreign societies in order to serve American interests. The underlying philosophy of these recommendations is that Americans themselves are our greatest national asset. Educating, engaging and empowering our own citizens at home and abroad, will do much to underscore the diligent efforts of our government, regain a climate of mutual trust and respect, and rebuild America's image in the eyes of the world.

22. Thinking About Preventing and Preparing For Terrorist Attacks

How should policymakers seek both to prevent terrorist attacks and prepare for them? Two RAND Corporation papers respond to these questions. The first paper argues that while traditional terrorism-prevention measures seek to prevent all damage by stopping terrorism attacks completely, focusing only on prevention is a risky strategy because of uncertainty in future terrorist threats. A portfolio combining prevention and mitigation can buy a lower, but more certain, payoff: preventing only some of the damage from attacks, but doing so predictably across the many different ways in which threats might become manifest. For example, some measures would reach for the highest payoff of completely preventing attacks, while others would

provide a more-stable protective return by limiting the damages from any terrorist operation. Protective portfolios should be assessed to determine which will perform well across a range of possible futures and be judged less sensitive to threat uncertainty.

When it comes to preparedness, policymakers do not have the information they need to assess how well emergency response efforts will perform at future incidents. Instead, they are usually limited to looking at past events for ways future responses could be improved. The second paper argues that while such an approach is important, better ways to assess preparedness prospectively will lead to better choices about how and where to strengthen it. With a focus on response activities—the near-term actions responders take when a disaster or terrorist incident is occurring or has just occurred to limit its consequences—the paper introduces the concept of response reliability, an alternative way of thinking about measuring preparedness that can answer the question: How certain should we be that the systems in place to respond to damaging events will be able to deliver when called upon?

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

23. WI-FI in the Great Outdoors

Chavers, Mikel

State News, vol. 51, no. 6, June/July 2008, pp. 23-26

Increasingly, visitors to U.S. state parks can not only hike, fish, ski, snorkel or scuba dive, but surf the Internet. With California taking the lead, and other states like Ohio, Kentucky and Texas following, wireless Internet hotspots are becoming more available in state parks. With its “almost negligible footprint,” park directors and other state officials see Wi-Fi as meeting the need of visitors and ensuring those visitors keep coming, whether they be short-term vacationers, business or other groups holding events or retirees spending several weeks or months on the road and in the parks. The chief information officer for California State Parks comments: “We know today that people live very complicated lives. People end up being tethered to their cell phone or their computers. We were concerned that we were going to start losing people at our state parks.” Some states charge for access, while others offer free service. But, in all cases, the bottom line is not to recoup costs, but to provide a service that travelers increasingly have come to expect.

24. EDS, MEDS and Urban Revival

Gurwitt, Rob

Governing, May 2008

In many American cities, a university or medical system is the largest private employer, and in four of them -- Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, San Diego and Baltimore -- universities and medical systems generate more than half the jobs among the 10 largest employers. Taking Birmingham, Alabama, as an example, Gurwitt looks at how local political and civic leaders are beginning to think strategically about how “eds and meds” can be used to further economic and community development. It is widely acknowledged that, without the University of Alabama, Birmingham would have collapsed in the 1980s when U.S. Steel shut down the mills that provided the city’s identity for more than a century. Today, the university, with its medical school

and hospital system, is a major source of economic development in Birmingham. Universities have big money to spend and they don't get bought out or relocated -- but they have not always recognized their local responsibilities. "The priorities of the university, the city and the state all move in different directions, making intensive collaboration difficult to build," Gurwitt says. Universities look to their alumni, students and state legislatures for money, and Birmingham city leaders have not been as supportive of the university's needs with the state legislature as they might have been. But now in Birmingham there's a new appreciation for the role the university plays in the city's economy.

25. Libraries Connect Communities

Barber, Peggy; Wallace, Linda

American Libraries, vol. 39, no. 9, October 2008, pp. 52-55

The authors, cofounders of the Chicago-based consulting firm Library Communication Strategies, produce the Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, which provides data and insights to help libraries and library staff strengthen their advocacy efforts and market themselves more effectively. Now in its second year, the study documents the proliferation of information technology in libraries and gathers the only data available on technology expenditures. Even before the latest economic downturn, most directors anticipated flat or declining revenues due to growing resistance to taxes and government budget deficits. The authors confirm that many libraries are increasingly turning to grants, fundraising, and gifts to supplement public financing. Not surprisingly, people at libraries with newer computers expressed a high level of satisfaction with their experience -- but so did users at less well-equipped libraries. People in poorer communities focused more on economics ("It's important for people like me who can't afford computers"), while users in more affluent areas talked more about education and research ("Computers are more important than books today") and the library as a quiet, convenient place to go ("Some of us don't want computers at home"). From 1996-2000, the number of libraries offering public-access computing went from 28 to 95 percent.

26. Black Women: the Unfinished Agenda

Conrad, Cecelia

American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 10, October 2008, pp. A12-A15

Conrad, an economist, is concerned that salaries of African-American women have not kept up with the rest of the population. She contends that persistent racial stereotypes have made it harder for black female high-school graduates to find their first job and then subsequently attain the same work resumes as other employees. Conrad credits the Social Security system for reducing poverty among black women, even though black women usually contribute less than other employees and at 65, receive less money from Social Security. She states that the presidential candidates should evaluate their anti-poverty initiatives for the specific impacts on black women.

27. Obsession with Rankings Goes Global

Labi, Aisha

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 8, October 17, 2008, pp. A27-29

In the late 1990s, Chinese university administrators and the Chinese government wanted to know whether all the money being poured into Chinese higher education was producing any results. To satisfy their need for an objective international frame of reference, Nian Cai Liu, a professor at Shanghai Joao Tong University, created a ranking of the world's top universities. Liu created his rankings by assigning scores on the basis of four factors: quality of education, quality of faculty, research output, and per capita performance. Quality of education, for example, counts the number of alumni who have won Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals. Liu's rankings, posted on a university Web site in 2003, created a storm because for the first time everyone could easily compare the world's universities, and officials and educators in many countries were shocked to see their own systems ranked so low. American universities dominate Liu's list -- 17 of the top 20 in the world are in the U.S., including the top 3 (Harvard, Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley). Liu's rankings play a major role in the choices made by international students and universities looking for partnerships; they also have had a major impact on governments, which in some cases are only financing scholarships for students who attend universities ranked above a certain cut-off point. Liu's rankings have also sparked a rival U.K. list, the Times Higher Education List, on which British institutions fare dramatically better. Critics take issue with the Shanghai list's emphasis on scientific research and the Times Higher Education List's heavy reliance on peer opinion. Liu welcomes criticism and tries each year to improve his methodology. Meanwhile, the lists have become "an integral part of international higher education," says Aisha Labi.

28. James Lee Byars: A study of Posterity

Mcevilley, Thomas

Art in America, November 2008, pp. 142-149, 208-209

The author, an art critic and friend of the late artist James Lee Byars (1932-1997), notes that Byars, whose conceptual and performance art was often overshadowed by his "abrasive personal behavior", is now receiving a more favorable response from the U.S. art establishment that once shunned him. This is possible, says Thomas, because, now that Byars has been dead for more than a decade, "people in America are beginning to forget how obnoxious he was." A manic-depressive and a flamboyant, gaudy dresser, Byars was never taken as seriously in the U.S. as he was in Europe, and some U.S. critics dismissed him as a charlatan. But as memories of his difficult personality have faded, U.S. art patrons and critics are expressing renewed interest in Byars' installation pieces (which were often understated and flamboyant at the same time) and his performance art, which stressed the fleeting nature of aesthetic experience. Byars, who famously said "I create atmospheres", revisited certain themes repeatedly. His installation work "The Angel" (1989) consisted of 125 transparent glass spheres placed on a floor and arranged symmetrically to evoke the abstract form of an angel. In "The Red Angel" (1993), Byars created a baroque version of the same image, using 1,000 red crystal spheres arranged in a much more elaborate pattern. Although Byars resisted the commercialization of his work, the posthumous reappraisal of his career means that market forces are now "closing in on him," Thomas observes. This is not altogether a bad thing, argues Thomas, since even Byars, "toward the end, growing exhausted by his 50-year-long rebel role, may have wanted conventional success a little bit."

29. Creating the United States

Urschel, Donna

Library of Congress Information Bulletin, vol. 67, no. 6, June 2008, pp. 95-102

“Creating the United States” is the title of a current exhibition at the Library of Congress on the founding of the U.S., as revealed by documents from the Library of Congress’ collection that chronicle the early years of the country’s formation. This exhibition of colonial-era documents is evidence of the insight and creativity of the founding fathers, as well as collaboration and much compromise. It demonstrates that the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are living instruments that are central to the evolution of the United States. The search for a plan of national government and the creation of the Constitution was a slow, difficult process, as Americans moved from a patriarchal monarchy to citizen-leaders in a representative republic. Congress passed proposed amendments to the Constitution as one of its first orders of business. Viewed as unnecessary by many and a mere diversion by others, the first ten amendments, which became known as the Bill of Rights, became the bedrock of individual rights and liberties.